

# THE RAM'S HORN

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## PHOENIX ZOO UPDATE

Article and Photo by Tom Bogges

The above photograph was taken at our own Phoenix Zoo Bighorn Sheep Enclosure. The large lamb was found in Copper Canyon in the Dome Rock Mountains. Also pictured is a ewe and her lamb, which was born in the enclosure this spring. It was only 5 days old when the photo was taken.

Not long ago, the Arizona Game and Fish caught an injured ewe and her lamb, and delivered them to the Phoenix Zoo. The ewe was blind due to infection in the base of her horn. The infection had penetrated into the brain and she died at the Phoenix Zoo Hospital Compound.

Fortunately for her lamb, the Bighorn Sheep Enclosure was available and she could be saved. The young lamb took up with a pregnant ewe, already homesteading in the enclosure. The lamb's second stroke of good fortune was the resident ewe had milk and allowed the newcomer to nurse. When her own lamb was born the next month, the older ewe lamb graciously left her "fostermother" alone to nurse her newborn, and has continued to do well in the enclosure.

Families and members of the Bighorn Sheep Society are encouraged to visit the Phoenix Zoo and observe the enclosure. The sheep act very much as they would in their wild habitat and please, let the zoo management know how much you enjoy the Bighorn Sheep Enclosure.

## STATUS OF DESERT BIGHORN TRANSPLANTS

*By Ben Avery*

Arizona's second desert bighorn sheep transplant could get underway within a year to re-establish a herd in the Virgin Mountains of the Arizona Strip.

And the Arizona Game and Fish Department and Tonto National Forest are looking at three areas for future transplants that could get underway within the next two or three years.

A fourth site could materialize in the Galurio Mountains south of the Aravaipa Primitive Area — the site of our first highly successful transplant.

The Tonto areas under consideration are north of Apache Lake in the Four Peaks area, south of Apache Lake on Horse Mesa, and south of Horse Mesa on Fish Creek Mountain.

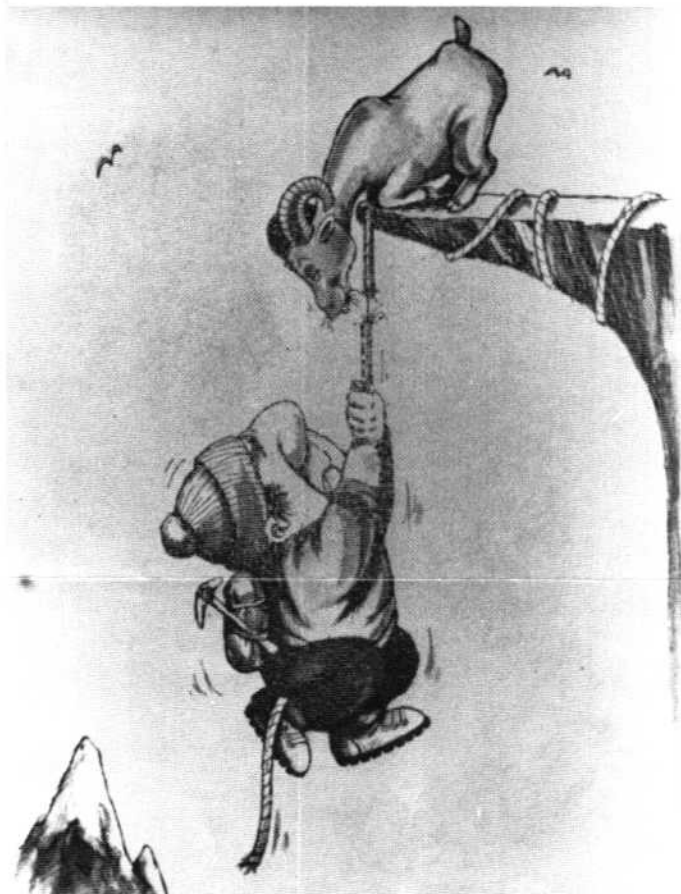
All of these areas once were occupied by the desert bighorn.

The progress of the Virgin Mountains area — the Paiute Primitive Area — transplant is largely due to the outstanding progress made in the complicated resource management planning process under Garth Colton, manager of the Arizona Strip District of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

And the work on the ground of Mel Wilhelm, BLM's wildlife biologist; Tom Britt, Arizona Game and Fish biologist who has been working with Wilhelm, and Paul Webb, big game chief for AG&F.

The sheep transplant could not have happened until completion of BLM's resource management plan and the wildlife habitat plan for that Black Mountain area. BLM hopes to have money available after July 1 from the Sikes Act — a fund established to restore wildlife on federal lands — to construct the holding pasture, and Arizona Game and Fish already is planning its trapping operations for the transplant. The sheep probably will come from the Black Mountains area.

As the project progresses, there will be opportunity for the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society to aid BLM with water-hole improvement projects similar to those carried out in recent years in established sheep areas.



*Don't Be Left Hanging! Plan on attending the Annual Sheep Clinic tentatively scheduled for October 8, at the Black Canyon Shooting Range.*



*Daniel Shepherd bagged this fine ram last season in the Cabeza Prieta Game Range.*

### RECAP OF 1977 WATERHOLE PROJECTS

The Van Deeman Tank II project completed the 1977 water-hole schedule. The Society went on a total of 6 weekend projects and completed 9 separate water sources. Attendees numbered as high as 57 people on the Black Tank Project in the Crater Mountains, with an average attendance of 32 workers per project.

The success of the current year's projects is due mainly to the hard work, advance planning and coordination done by our Projects Chairman, Robby Robinson.

Without exception, everyone who had an opportunity to get out on one or more of the projects this year enjoyed themselves thoroughly, gained a feeling of accomplishment and worth, and is eagerly awaiting the first trip next year. Hope to see you then.

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